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CELEBRATION *of* *The* HUNDRED YEARS *of* PEACE

BETWEEN

The British Empire *and the* United States of America

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THANKSGIVING SERVICES

TO BE HELD IN

CANADIAN CHURCHES

ON

SUNDAY,

FEBRUARY 14th, 1915

Issued by

The Canadian Peace Centenary Association
HOPE CHAMBERS
OTTAWA

Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., *President*
Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Hamilton, *Honorary Secretary*
E. H. Scammell, *Organizing Secretary*

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ON December 24th, 1914, it was one hundred years since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, the treaty which brought to a close the war of 1812 between the United States of America and the British Empire. Dating from 1910, when an influential committee was formed in New York for the purpose of arranging an appropriate celebration of the close of the First Century of Peace, a large amount of work has been done in Canada, Great Britain and the United States. In all three countries are organizations of prominent representative men. It has been recognized everywhere that the celebration of a Hundred Years of Peace between two nations is an event unique in international history.

In June, 1812, the United States, smarting under what she regarded as the overbearing attitude of Great Britain, declared war, and promptly invaded Canada. The magnificent and noble defence offered by the British and Canadian Regulars and Militia is emblazoned in letters of gold upon the Britannic records, and the descendants of those who fought and who saved the fair lands of Canada from conquest by another power are not wanting in their tributes of respect to the memory of their heroic progenitors.

To-day the scene has changed. Those who were at war are now living side by side in amity. No fortresses guard their frontiers, and such rivalry as exists is only in the prosecution of the arts of peace.

The Organizers of the Peace Centenary movement would have failed to do their duty if they had not arranged for a prominent place to be taken by the Churches. It is a matter for devout thankfulness to Almighty God that, notwithstanding boundary disputes and outbursts of national passion, it has been possible for us to keep the peace for the past century, and that differences have been settled by appeal not to the arbitrament of the sword, but to common sense and reason. It is hoped that on the Sunday selected the Churches of Canada and the United States will join in this celebration, and that a mighty anthem of praise, full-souled and sincere, will ascend to High Heaven.

The fact that Canada, as a component part of the British Empire, is at war makes the holding of the Peace Celebration with the great friendly nation to the south a much more impressive and important event than originally was anticipated.

Some months ago the Executives of the American and Canadian Associations agreed to set aside Sunday, February 14th, 1915, for special thanksgiving services, and to invite the churches of the two countries to act together in the matter. The reason for the selection of this date was that it would not conflict with the regular calendar in any of the Churches. Although the Treaty of Ghent was signed on Christmas Eve, 1814, owing to the necessarily slow rate at which news could travel in those days, the document did not reach Washington until February 14th, 1815. It was ratified by the Government of the United States on February 17th, 1815. February 14th, 1915, is, therefore, the nearest Sunday to the Centenary of the ratification of the Treaty.

The following letters have been received by the Organizing Secretary of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association from His Excellency

B. Q. R.
NO. — *

the Most Rev. P. F. Stagni, O.S.M., D.D., Apostolic Delegate, and from His Eminence Cardinal Bégin, which clearly set forth the position of the Catholic Church:—

The Most Reverend P. F. Stagni.

Dear Sir:— Ottawa, January 6th, 1915.

I have already had the honour of expressing to you my full and cordial sympathy with the aims of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association, and especially with the proposal that public thanksgiving be rendered Almighty God for the inestimable blessing of the hundred years of peace that has been enjoyed by the people of this Dominion and of the great neighbouring Republic.

Since my last communication with you, war has broken out in Europe, involving the most powerful nations of the world.—a war so terrible in its extent and in its horrors that we stand aghast at the havoc that is being actually wrought, and are filled with dismay at the dreadful consequences, which no man can estimate. The present may indeed, for this reason, seem a very inopportune moment for a celebration of peace, but is there not at least a peculiar timeliness in the very contrast itself? In this hour of strife, is it not something to be particularly grateful for, that two nations have for one hundred years lived side by side without soldier or fortress to guard their boundaries, and that, in accordance with the spirit of Christianity, they have found better means for settling disputes than the awful arbitrament of war?

God is "the Author and Lover of Peace." It is most fitting, therefore, even at this time, that our hearts should be directed to Him in gratitude, in order that, by His mercy, we may continue to dwell in the security of His protection.

Believe me,
My dear Mr. Scammell,
Very truly yours,
+ P. F. STAGNI, O.S.M.,
Archbishop of Aquila,
Del. Ap.

His Eminence Cardinal Bégin.

My dear Sir, Quebec, December 22nd, 1914.

Notwithstanding the sad coincidence of the cruel war afflicting the mother-countries of the two races that have labored in the upbuilding and betterment of Canada I concur with those of your honorable correspondents who deem it preferable not to postpone the proposed celebration of the Peace Centenary. It will serve as a hopeful contrast to witness this rejoicing over a century of peace and friendship between two great nations, who, by the grace of Divine Providence and the good-will of men, have lived in harmony with each other, and wish to do so for an indefinite number of years more. Thankful to the Almighty we surely should be, and it is just that we give fitting expression to our gratitude.

This long period of peace has enabled over a million of my French-Canadian compatriots to make their home in the neighboring Republic, and, although the loss to our own country must be deplored, it is reassuring and consoling to know that, under the protective aegis of American institutions, they have thriven and prospered, and above all, have remained, with few exceptions, true to the faith and traditions of their fathers, and, without any detriment to their loyalty and social efficiency, faithful to the language that has helped them to safeguard and preserve their sacred inheritance.

Between the United States and our own country there have been, time out of mind, many ties of relationship. Over the vast Mississippi

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Basin and the Western Territories once waved the lilies of France, and the greater portion of the North American continent then obeyed the apostolic sway of the Venerable François de Montmoreney Laval. No wonder that from the shores of the St. Lawrence went forth many of the missionaries, discoverers and explorers of the country lying Southward; that the founders of many flourishing cities of the great Republic bore names familiar to our ear and illustrious in our annals.

Three eventful dates, 1759, 1775 and 1812, bear witness to a period of disagreement and warfare. But the scene has long since changed.

From the very dawn of the English régime in Canada, my predecessors in office have done their utmost to maintain the loyalty of their flock to the British Crown. And to-day, that the echo of the last shots exchanged between the rival brothers on either side of the boundary-line has long ago died away, I am happy to join with our fellow-countrymen in fraternizing with our peace-loving neighbors, and, above all, in rendering thanks to Heaven for such a long period of blessed and restful peace.

I have the honor to be
Yours truly,
+ L. N. CARDINAL BEGIN,
Archbishop of Quebec.

Letters of similar tenor to the foregoing have also been received from the Primate of the Church of England, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, the Chairman of the Congregational Union, the Superintendent of the Baptist Home Mission Board, and others.

The Association, while expressing the desire that the programme for the religious celebration of February 14th next will comprise a divine service in the morning and another in the evening, leaves to the discretion of the Bishops of the various dioceses the character and order of the services to be adopted in their respective churches.

The promised co-operation of all the Churches augurs well for the success of the celebration. As an example of the attitude of the Catholic Churches in the United States ,the following extracts from a letter from His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, addressed to the Hon. Alton B. Parker, one of the prominent officers of the American Peace Centenary Committee, may be cited:—

"I cannot refrain from expressing to you by letter my views anent the movement now on foot to promote closer and more amicable relations between England and this country, which embrace practically the English-speaking world. I am persuaded that the signing of a treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States would not only be a source of incalculable blessings to these two great powers, but would go far toward the maintenance of permanent international peace throughout the civilized world.

"Both of these great nations have many things in common. We live under virtually the same form of government. The head of one government is a King, the head of the other nation is a President; England is governed by a Constitutional Monarchy; the United States are ruled by a Constitutional Republic. And I believe that both of these nations have been more successful in adjusting and reconciling legitimate authority with personal liberty than any other country of the world.

"England is mistress of the ocean. Her ships ply through every sea on the globe. Her flag floats over every harbor of the world. Her Empire embraces a territory comprising 10,000,000 of square miles, or about one-fifth of the whole globe. Great was the Roman Empire in the days of her imperial splendor. It extended into Europe as far as the River Danube; into Asia as far as the Tigris and Euphrates, and into Africa as far as Mauritania. And yet the Roman Empire was scarcely one-sixth of the extent of the British Empire of to-day. It was Daniel Webster who, in a speech delivered in the American Senate about sixty-three years ago, thus described the extent of the British possessions: 'She has dotted the whole surface of

the globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drumbeat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, encircles the earth with one unbroken strain of the martial airs of England.'

"The United States rules nearly one hundred millions of happy and contented people. Our government exercises a dominant and salutary influence over the entire American Continent, and our influence is exerted not to destroy, but to save; not to dismember our sister Republics, but to preserve their peace and autonomy.

"If, then England and America were to enter into an alliance of permanent arbitration with each other, such a bond of friendship and amity would be a blessing not only to these two great powers, but to all the nations of the civilized world.

"When the waters receded from the earth after the Deluge, Almighty God made a solemn covenant with Noah and his posterity that the earth should never again be destroyed by water, and, as a sign of this covenant, He placed a bow in the heavens. Let Britannia and Columbia join hands across the Atlantic, and their outstretched arms will form a sacred arch of peace which will excite the admiration of the nations, and will proclaim to the world the hope that, with God's help, the earth shall never more be deluged with blood shed in a fratricidal war."

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, expressed their views on a continuance of the programme of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association. Sir Robert Borden said:—

"The project of marking in an appropriate manner the completion of a century of peace between the British Empire and the United States ought surely to command the widest sympathy. That terrible storm of war, now sweeping Europe, the ravages of which reach even to the shores of this continent, brings into clearer relief the more excellent way which these two great powers have found and followed. It is no small triumph of civilization that these two neighboring nations have been able so long to live side by side without recourse to the arbitrament of war, and to adjust their differences by the exercise of reason and moderation, powerfully seconded, as these admirable qualities have been, by the growing good feeling between the people of our Empire and the Great Republic. When tidings reach us of devastated fields and ruined towns in other lands, our hearts must be uplifted in thankfulness that on this continent we have been spared those distressing conflicts. The proposal to mark in some public way our gratitude for this great blessing has seemed to me, from the beginning, to be eminently appropriate and worthy of encouragement."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:—

"I am certainly of the opinion that the celebration should not be interfered with by the war. On the contrary, at this moment more than ever it would be advisable that the American people and the Canadian people should give an example to the world of their unflinching and determined desire to maintain peace."

PROGRAMME OF THE CANADIAN PEACE CENTENARY ASSOCIATION.

The original programme of the British, Canadian and American Committees consisted of four main features:—

1. The erection of monuments.
2. The holding of services of thanksgiving in the churches.
3. The conduct of an educational propaganda in the schools and universities.
4. The holding of public festivities in a number of centres.

The work in the British Isles and in the United States is under the control of committees organized in these countries, and the work in Canada is in charge of the Canadian Peace Centenary Association, of which Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.D., is the President.

The war in Europe has rendered necessary a modification of some of the plans of the three Associations. In Canada and the United

States, decisions have been reached to proceed with the work, especially along educational lines. In Britain, the organization, which is under the presidency of the Duke of Teck and Earl Grey, is being continued. At a meeting of the Executive of the Canadian Association, held on August 19th last, the following resolution was passed:—

"The Association desires to record its opinion that, notwithstanding the present war, there should be an appropriate celebration commemorative of the Hundred Years of Peace between the British Empire and the United States. The Association recognizes, however, that, having regard for the very serious nature of events arising out of the war, it would be inexpedient to attempt, at present, definite arrangements as to time and place for a celebration of an international character. With this exception, it is decided that the Association proceed with its educational and other work as far as may be possible."

The original Canadian-American programme for the erection of monuments proposed that one each should be placed in the three capitals, and a series along the international boundary. It also suggested that memorials, or tablets, should be placed in the various centres of celebration, and in some of the principal educational institutions. A curtailment of this programme will be necessary.

The most important feature of the celebration originally intended was its educational side, and this will be maintained notwithstanding the war. The Association is proceeding with the following:—

The preparation of a series of articles dealing with the various treaties with the United States, the events which led up to such treaties, the negotiations which took place and the general results secured.

Arrangements for competitive essays in schools to be planned for the different grades.

The issue of a play for production in schools.

Active preparatory work along the foregoing lines is well in hand.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

The War of 1812 was declared by the United States on June 18th, 1812. The last engagement was at New Orleans on January 8th, 1815.

The Treaty of Ghent was signed in the Carthusian Monastery at Ghent, Belgium, on December 24th, 1814. It was ratified by the Government of the United States on February 17th, 1815. The British representatives were Admiral Lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, and William Adams. The American representatives were John Quincy Adams, J. A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russell, and Albert Gallatin. At banquet tendered to the signatories by the Municipality of , a few days after the signing of the treaty, Mr. John Quincy Adams made use of these memorable words: "May the gates of the Temple of Janus, closed here, never be opened during the century." The Treaty of Ghent did not refer to any of the causes of the war, but it brought peace. It provided for the appointment of commissions to settle some outstanding boundary disputes which took many years to arrange.

The Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817 is perhaps the most striking international document on record. It was felt on both sides that if ships of war were allowed to patrol the Great Lakes, collision would be inevitable. After considerable negotiation, an agreement was entered into, the brevity of which is remarkable. It provided for the withdrawal of all ships of war from the Great Lakes, with the exception of one vessel for each country on Lake Champlain, one each on Lake Ontario, and two each on the Upper Lakes, or four ships for Great Britain and four for the United States, none of which should

exceed one hundred tons burden, nor carry more than one cannon of eighteen pounds. The term "Upper Lakes" has been interpreted to cover Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. Six months' notice in writing by either party could conclude this arrangement. While the agreement has not been kept to the letter, it has in spirit, and there is now no prospect that it will ever be abrogated.

The Ashburton Treaty, of 1842, was concluded between Lord Ashburton, representing the British side, and Daniel Webster, the American. It settled the boundary between the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine. Prior to this Treaty, the tension between the peoples of Canada and the United States was very acute. A considerable area was in dispute and repeated attempts at arbitration had failed. The settlement arranged by Lord Ashburton has been regarded by Canadians as unfair; on the other hand, the same charge has been made by Americans against Webster. Recent historical research seems to prove that the arrangement was eminently fair to both sides.

The Oregon Boundary Settlement, 1846.—With the trend of migration towards the Pacific Ocean a delimitation of the Canadian-American western boundary became imperative. The American claim was that their territory extended northwards to the parallel of 54 deg. 40 min. So intent were they that the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, J. K. Polk, was swept into power by the slogan, "Fifty-four-forty-or-fight." On the other hand, the British claim went south to the mouth of the Columbia River. In the end it was agreed to continue the boundary along the 49th parallel of latitude.

Reciprocity Agreement.—A reciprocity agreement was entered into with the Government of the United States in 1854, by which certain natural products were given reciprocal rights of entry into both countries, and certain fishery privileges were granted to the United States. This agreement, which was mutually beneficial, was abrogated by the United States in 1866, as a result of the bad feeling engendered during the American Civil War.

The Treaty of Washington, 1871.—Several disputed matters between Canada and the United States called for settlement. Among them were the coast fisheries, the use of the Canadian canals and of the St. Lawrence, the boundary line on the Pacific Coast, and compensation to Canada for the Fenian raids. There was also a claim made by the United States against Great Britain for damages done to her commerce during the Civil War by the Southern cruiser, "Alabama." To settle these questions, a Joint High Commission of British and American delegates met at Washington. The Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald represented Canada. It was agreed that for twelve years the fishermen of each nation should have free use of the coast waters of the other, and that fish and fish oil should be admitted from each country to the other free of duty. But as the fisheries in Canadian waters were the more valuable, it was agreed that the United States should pay Canada such sum of money as would make up the difference. This sum was fixed by the Halifax Award of 1878 at $5,500,000, of which $1,000,000 went to Newfoundland and the remainder to Canada. When the money was paid over, the Canadian share was invested by the Dominion Government, and the interest is still paid yearly to the Quebec and Maritime Provinces fishermen. The use of Canada's canals and the St. Lawrence was given to Americans on the same terms as to Canadians. Free navigation on Lake Michigan, the Yukon River and other American waters, was allowed to our people. The ownership of the Island of San Juan, left to arbitration, was finally settled in favor

of the United States. The "Alabama" claims, also left to arbitration, were settled in Geneva, in 1872, by the payment of $15,500,000 by Great Britain to the United States. At the request of Great Britain, Canada's claim for damages done by the Fenians was withdrawn, and in recompense, certain other favors were given to Canada by the Mother Country.

The Alaskan Boundary Settlement, 1903.—In 1825, a Treaty was made between Great Britain and Russia, who owned the great territory of Alaska, by which Russia was confirmed in the possession of a strip along the Pacific Coast, reaching down as far south as 54 deg. 40 min. In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia for the sum of $7,200,000. In 1895 gold was discovered in the Yukon Territory, which is inaccessible from the sea, except through the strip given to Russia in 1825. This now belonged to the United States. No attempt had been made to delimit the frontier between this and the Yukon; so, after considerable negotiation, the matter was submitted to the Arbitration of three American and three British jurists. Mr., afterwards Sir Allen Aylesworth, and Sir Louis Jetté were the two Canadians on this Board. The decision was substantially in favor of the American claim. A good deal of feeling was aroused in Canada through the action of Lord Alverstone, the only English member of the Board, in agreeing to relinquish two small islands—Sitklan and Kannaghunnutt—without the knowledge of his Canadian confrères. These islands were really of no value, and their relinquishment did not in any way affect the general decision, which was based entirely on documentary evidence. It has been thought by many, who are not familiar with the facts, that but for the action of Lord Alverstone, Canada would have owned the whole of the "Panhandle." His decision, however, merely settled the ownership of these islands.

The More Excellent Way.

There have been several other Agreements and Treaties between Great Britain and the United States, which did not concern Canada directly; and again, others of a minor nature, in which we were interested. The awards under those referred to have not always been received with enthusiasm, either in Canada or in the United States, especially when the decisions have apparently been adverse. Regarding the Geneva Award, which mulcted Great Britain in heavy damages in respect of the "Alabama" claims, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, made use of these noble words in the British House of Commons.—

> Although we may think the sentence was harsh in its extent and unjust in its basis, we regard the fine imposed on this country as dust in the balance, compared with the moral value of the example set when these two great nations of England and America, which are amongst the most fiery and the most jealous in the world, with regard to anything that touches national honor, went in peace and concord before a judicial tribunal to dispose of these painful differences rather than resort to the arbitrament of the sword.

The celebration of a hundred years of peace with the United States is remarkable because there has been by no means a hundred years of amity. On many occasions, but for diplomacy and the exercise of common sense, there would have been war. It is this fact which lends especial significance to the present cordial relations between the two nations. Canada's greatest achievement and the greatest achievement of the United States, in the eyes of the world to-day, is the boundary of 3,540 miles, stretching from ocean to ocean, garrisoned only by the sentiment and good-will of two sovereign peoples.